

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VALLET 00465 061910Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CU-04 BIB-01 HA-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NEA-10
AF-10 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 /105 W
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FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8023

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 00465

BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE MT
SUBJECT: THE MALTESE HOLDOUT

REF: LAINGEN/OLIVER TELCON

1. MALTA NEWS EDITORIAL MARCH 4 DESCRIBING CSCE ACCEPTANCE
OF MALTESE MEDITERRANEAN PROPOSAL IN MODIFIED FORM AS A
DIPLOMATIC COUP FOR GOM HAS NOT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE BEEN
REPEATED IN OTHER PRO-LABOR PAPERS.

2. MALTA NEWS IS NOT ALWAYS AN ACCURATE REFLECTION OF GOM
LINE. IN THIS CASE WE SUSPECT THEY WERE PREMATURE.
TODAY'S CSCE REPORTING IN THE SAME PAPER PLAYS BELGRADE
EVENTS MUCH MORE IN LINE WITH GOM POLICY, EMPHASIZING
GAUCI COMMENT THAT PRESENT CONSENSUS STATEMENT IS
"TANTAMOUNT TO ZERO."

3. MINTOFF IS CALLING THE SHOTS PERSONALLY ON THIS.
GAUCI HAS NO FLEXIBILITY OTHER THAN TO HANG TOUGH UNTIL
HE IS TOLD TO DO OTHERWISE BY MINTOFF.

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4. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER SAYS HE HAS LEARNED FROM
ITALIAN AMBASSADOR THAT HE IS LIKELY TO GET INSTRUCTIONS
FROM LONDON TO TACKLE MINTOFF ON THIS. HE HAS NONE YET
BUT IS CALLING LONDON. HE DOUBTS HE WILL CARRY MUCH WEIGHT
ON CSCE WITH MINTOFF AND BELIEVES STRONG APPROACH FROM
SCHMIDT VIA GERMAN EMBASSY HERE WOULD BE MUCH MORE

EFFECTIVE, GIVEN MINTOFF'S EXPECTATIONS FROM GERMANS FOR POST-1979 PERIOD. I AGREE WITH THAT,

5. I WOULD BE QUITE PREPARED TO GO IN AND TELL MINTOFF HOW WRONG HE IS IN WITHHOLDING CONSENSUS, IF DEPARTMENT SO INSTRUCTS ME. BUT I AGREE WITH BELGRADE THAT WE ARE NOT GOING TO BE VERY EFFECTIVE HERE ON THIS ISSUE.

6. WE EXPECTED MINTOFF TO PLAY FOR BROKE ON BELGRADE. HE IS OBVIOUSLY DOING IT IN SPADES. HE HAS ALREADY GOTTEN A GREAT DEAL, AND IN THAT SENSE THE MALTA NEWS WAS EXACTLY RIGHT. BUT MINTOFF IS STUBBORN AND ENOUGH OF A MEGALO-MANIAC TO THINK HE CAN GET MORE. FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT, WE HAVE LITTLE IN A TACTICAL SENSE TO SUGGEST, EXCEPT TO BE EQUALLY TOUGH WITH HIM, STRONGLY REMINDING HIM THAT THE LONGER HE PERSISTS IN HIS STONEWALLING THE GREATER THE COST IN TERMS OF WHAT HE CAN EXPECT FROM EUROPE FOR THE POST-1979 PERIOD. THE GERMANS CAN GET THAT POINT ACROSS. SO CAN THE ITALIANS, AND THE SPANISH AS WELL.

7. WE HOPE THE BATTLE IS WON BY THE TIME BELGRADE GETS THIS MESSAGE. WE STILL THINK MINTOFF WILL EVENTUALLY TAKE THE COMPROMISE LANGUAGE IN THE PRESENT CONSENSUS DRAFT AND PLAY IT AS THE ACCOMPLISHMENT THAT IT IS.

8. FOR HIS MEDITERRANEAN NEIGHBORS THAT IS WHEN THE REAL
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PAIN WILL BEGIN. LAINGEN

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